

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

In summary, the above-described objectives are achieved by the following aspects embodiments of the present invention.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 22, with the following rewritten paragraph:

(1) A holographic recording medium comprising: two transparent substrates; a holographic recording material layer sandwiched therebetween; and a spacer integrally embedded in this holographic recording material layer, the spacer being composed of at least either a large number of beads or fibers for regulating a gap between the two transparent substrates, wherein the spacer is arranged around a recording area of the holographic recording material layer.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

It should be noted that, while the foregoing embodiment of the manufacturing method has used spherical beads 58 as the spacer, this manufacturing method is not limited to spherical beads. ~~Spacers~~Fibers may be used as in the foregoing holographic recording media 30, 40, and 50.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 16, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

It should be appreciated that in the foregoing embodiments, the diameter of the spacer, i.e., spherical beads or fibers may be determined in accordance with the thickness of the holographic recording material layer. With reference to the target value of the parallelism of the holographic recording medium, beads or fibers may be used selectively application by application, depending on their materials (glass, zirconia, etc.) and the precision of variations in diameter.